

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH  
ABSTRACT

Public Servants - Commercial Taxes and other Departments - Surprise check conducted on the Integrated Check-Post, Naraharipet, Chittoor district on the intervening night of 26/27.07.2014 - Initiated common disciplinary proceedings against Sri I.V.Ranga Rao, DCTO & AO (retired) and four others - Articles of Charges framed - Inquiry Officer appointed - Inquiry report received - Imposed penalty of withholding one annual grade increment without cumulative effect against three (03) officials viz., 1) Sri B.Hari Krishna, ACTO; 2) Sri K.Anandam, Sr.Asst.; and 3) Sri Mohd.Ismail Khan, AMVI, Transport Dept. - Orders - Issued.

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REVENUE (VIGILANCE-VI) DEPARTMENT

G.O.RT.No. 526

Dated: 02-06-2025

Read the following:-

1. From the DG, ACB, Lr.Rc.No.78/DES-TCT/2014,S7, dated 13.08.2015.
2. G.O.Ms.No.458, Revenue (Vigilance-II) Dept., dated 03.12.2015.
3. G.O.Rt.Nos.1237, 1238, 1239, 1240 and 1241, Revenue (Vigilance-II) Dept., dated 03.12.2015.
4. G.O.Rt.No.780, Revenue (Vigilance-II) Dept., dated 28.09.2020.
5. G.O.Rt.No.893, Revenue (Vigilance-II) Dept., dated 12.11.2020.
6. G.O.Rt.No.688, Revenue (Vigilance-II) Dept., dated 28.10.2021.
7. From the CCST's Lr.Ref.No.V2/556/2015, dated 18.03.2023.
8. Govt.Memo.No.1139886-CCST0CCTV(ACBC)/3/2020, dated 10.11.2023.
9. From the CCST's Lr.Ref.No.V2/556/2015, dated 17.05.2024.

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ORDER:

Whereas, in the reference 1<sup>st</sup> read above, the Director General, Anti-Corruption Bureau has informed that on credible information that the officials and staff of Integrated Check-Post, Naraharipet, Chittoor district were indulging in corrupt practices and collecting bribe amounts from the drivers of the vehicles passing through the check post, a surprise check was conducted on 27.07.2014 and found certain allegations and recommended to initiate departmental action against five (05) Suspected Officers/staff members of i.e., 3 from Commercial Tax Dept., and one (01) each from Forest and TR&B Dept's viz., 1) Sri I.V.Ranga Rao, DCTO & AO now retired (SO-1), 2) Sri Boddikura Hari Krishna, ACTO (SO-2); 3) Sri K.Anandan, ACTO (SO-3); 4) Sri M.Ramesh Babu, FSO now retired from service on 31.10.2017 (SO-4), and 5) Sri Mohd.Ismail Khan, S/o.Late Md.Musthafha Ali Khan, AMVI (SO-5) respectively, for violation of A.P.Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

2. Whereas, in the reference 2<sup>nd</sup> read above, Government initiated common disciplinary proceedings against 1) Sri I.V.Ranga Rao, DCTO & AO of ICP, (retired) (SO-1), 2) Sri Boddikura Hari Krishna, ACTO, (SO-2); 3) Sri K.Anandan, ACTO, (SO-3) of C.T.Dept.; 4) Sri M.Ramesh Babu, FSO, Forest Dept., (retired on 31.10.2017) (SO-4), and 5) Sri Mohd.Ismail Khan, AMVI, Transport Dept.(SO-5) respectively under Rule 24 read with Rule 20 of the A.P.Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991. Whereas, in the references 3<sup>rd</sup> read above, Articles of Charges were framed against each of them under Rule 20 of A.P.Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991 respectively for the irregularities noticed during surprise check conducted on 26/27.07.2014.

3. Whereas, all the Charged Officers submitted their Written Statement of Defenses to the Government. Since the explanations of the Charged Officers are not convincing, in the reference 4<sup>th</sup> read above, Government appointed Sri V.Raghunath, Joint Commissioner (ST), Chittoor Division as Inquiring Authority to enquire into the charges framed against the Charged Officers. As per the recommendations of the Bureau, in the reference 5<sup>th</sup> read above, Government have appointed Sri P.Nagendra, Inspector of Police, ACB, Tirupati Range, Tirupati as Presenting Officer to present the case on behalf of the disciplinary authority in

support of the articles of charges framed against the charged officers and in the reference 6<sup>th</sup> read above, Government have re-appointed Sri P.John Stevenson, Jt. Commissioner (ST) as Inquiry Authority in place of Sri V.Raghunath, Jt. Commissioner (ST) as he was transferred from Chittoor Division to Vijayawada-1 Division.

4. Whereas, in the reference 7<sup>th</sup> read above, the Chief Commissioner of State Tax has furnished the Inquiry Report submitted by Sri P.John Stevenson, Jt. Commissioner (ST), Chittoor Division on the allegations against five (05) officers/staff members to the Government for taking necessary further action in the matter. After examining the Inquiry Report, in the reference 8<sup>th</sup> read above, the Inquiry Report along with disagreement factors, have been communicated to all five (05) Charges Officers under Rule 21(2) of A.P.Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991 with a direction to submit their written representations on the findings of the Inquiry Officer and the disagreement factors within (15) days from the date of receipt. All the Charged Officers submitted their written explanations and requested to drop further action against them in the matter.

5. Whereas, in the reference 9<sup>th</sup> read above, the Chief Commissioner of State Tax has stated that the Jt. Commissioner (ST), Chittoor Nodal Division has submitted the served copies of the Govt.Memo.8<sup>th</sup> read above and representations of the Charged Officers and forwarded to the Government for taking further action in the matter.

6. Government, have examined the written explanations submitted by the all Charged Officers on the disagreement factors communicated by the disciplinary authority and Government observes that it is true than an amount of Rs.19,190/- seized in the Assistant Commercial Tax Officer's rest room; and an amount of Rs.8,560/- and Rs.14,110/- seized from the Commercial Tax Counter and Road Transport Authority Counter respectively and the deposition of the PW-3 is supported with the version of the Disciplinary authority which the action of the Charged Officer is contravene to the AP CS (Conduct) Rules, 1964. Further as per the Rulings of Supreme Court that a disciplinary proceedings is not a criminal trial and that the standard of proof required in a disciplinary inquiry is that of preponderance of probability and not proof beyond reasonable doubt. (Union of India Vs. Sardar Bahadur, 1972 SLRSC 355: State of A.P., Va. Sree Rama Rao, AIR 1963 SC 1723, and Nanda Kishore Prasad Vs. State of Bihar and others 1978 (2) SLR SC 46. For the reasons stated above, the charges framed against the Charged Officers are proved.

7. Accordingly, Government have decided and hereby order to impose a penalty of withholding one annual grade increment without cumulative effect against three (03) officials viz., 1) Sri B.Hari Krishna, ACTO now GSTO; 2) Sri K.Anandam, Sr.Asst.; and 3) Sri Mohd.Ismail Khan, AMVI, Transport Dept., respectively.

8. The Chief Commissioner of State Tax, Andhra Pradesh, Kunchanapalli, Guntur shall take further necessary action in the matter accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

PEEYUSH KUMAR  
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To  
The individual (through the Chief Commissioner of  
State Tax, Andhra Pradesh, Kunchanapalli,  
Guntur district)  
The Chief Commissioner of State Tax, Andhra Pradesh,  
Kunchanapalli, Guntur district  
The Transport, Roads and Buildings (VIG-TR)) Department,  
A.P.Secretariat, for taking necessary action.  
The Environment, Forests, Science & Technology (SEC.IV)  
Department, for taking necessary action.

Copy to:-  
The Director General, Anti-Corruption Bureau,  
Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada, for favour of information  
The Secretary to Vigilance Commissioner, Andhra Pradesh  
Vigilance Commission, for favour of information  
SF/SCs

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER